

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following paragraph:

**[0022]** Referring now to FIG. 2A and 2B, an ear plug, generally indicated at 200 is illustrated. The ear plug 200 is formed from a ball 200' of silicone rubber in uncured form that is inserted at least partially into an ear canal 202 by pressing the ball 200' at least partially into the ear canal 202. As such, a portion 204 of the plug 200 is fitted within the ear canal 202 and a portion 206 covers the skin at the entrance 208 of the ear canal. Once the plug 200 is cured, the plug will permanently retain the shape of the orifice from which it was formed. As shown in FIG. ~~4B~~2B, which is a bottom view of the ear plug 200, the portion 204 of the ear plug 200 that fits within the ear canal forms a hook-like portion 210 that fits around the ear canal extending toward the back of the ear 212 (see FIG. ~~4A~~2A). This hook-like portion 210 secures the ear plug within the ear canal 202. Thus, when forming the ball 200', the ball 200' should be of sufficient size so as to allow formation of the hook-like portion when the ball 200' is pressed into the ear canal 202. Because the ear plug 200, however, remains flexible after curing, the hook portion 210 can flex to allow easy and painless removal of the ear plug 200 from the ear canal 202 as well as easy and painless reinsertion of the ear plug 200 as desired by a user. To remove the ear plug 200 from the ear

canal, the edges 214 and 216 of the outer portion 206 of the ear plug 200 can be grasped between the thumb and forefinger and pulled from the ear canal 202.